

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AID-20 OIC-04 EUR-25 /173 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:MRARIETTI:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA:JJSISCO

NEA/INS:DKUX

NEA:LBLAINGEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236212

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XF, NP, PFOR

SUBJ: AMB KHANAL MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING NOVEMBER 29 CALL BY AMB KHANAL, ASST SECRETARY SISCO REVIEWED MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR NEPALESE PARTICIPATION IN UNEF. AGREED WITH KHANAL THAT THERE NO MAJOR CHANGE IN INDIA'S POSITION AS RESULT OF BREZHNEV VISIT. BOTH ALSO NOTED GOOD US-NEPALESE RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. SISCO EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION FOR NEPALESE PARTICIPATION IN UNEF, NOTING THAT NEPAL WAS ONE OF FEW NATIONS ENJOYING GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT, KHANAL AGREED, WHILE MENTIONING THAT NEPAL WOULD REQUIRE SOME ASSISTANCE WITH SUPPLIES. (FYI: UN HAS CONTACTED US RE PURCHASE TENTS, VEHICLES, AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR NEPALESE CONTINGENT. END FYI.)

3. SISCO COMMENTED THAT US HOPEFUL ON MID-EAST SITUATION.

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DURING WAR NEITHER SIDE HAD WON TOTAL VICTORY, BUBBLE

OF ISRAELI INVINCIBILITY WAS BURST, AND EGYPT HAD A PSYCHOLOGICAL LIFT. BOTH SIDES NOW MOVING TOWARDS NEGOTIATIONS, BUT CEASEFIRE REMAINED DELICATE.

4. AIM IS TO GET PEACE CONFERENCE STARTED IN GENEVA, MID DECEMBER, BUT SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS UNLIKELY TO START UNTIL AFTER DECEMBER 31 ISRAELI ELECTIONS. US AND USSR PRESENTLY CONSULTING OTHERS ON MODALITIES OF CONFERENCE. USG ONLY MAJOR POWER ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES AND THUS UNIQUELY ABLE TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT DO SO UNDER THREAT OR DURESS. WE BELIEVE ARABS SHOULD FIND WAYS TO EASE OIL EMBARGO.

5. RE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE, SISCO SAID OUR PRELIMINARY JUDGMENT WAS THAT FORCES IN ARAB WORLD SEEKING PEACE AND NEGOTIATIONS HAD UPPER HAND -- A SHARP CONTRAST TO EARLIER SUMMITS. THIS WAS FURTHER SIGN THAT ARABS RECOGNIZE THAT ALTERNATIVE TO NEGOTIATIONS IS COSTLY RENEWAL OF WAR.

6. TURNING TO SOUTH ASIA, KHANAL EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT BREZHNEV VISIT WOULD LEAD TO MAJOR EXPANSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE. HE FELT INDIA NOT WILLING TO PAY SECOND FIDDLE TO ANYONE. SISCO AGREED, COMMENTING THAT BOTH INDIANS AND RUSSIANS HAD GIVEN VISIT HEAVY PUBLICITY.

7. KHANAL NOTED THAT KING BIRENDRA HAD ENJOYED GOOD VISIT TO INDIA. HE WAS NOT TOURING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NEPAL BEFORE DEPARTING FOR CHINA DECEMBER 7.

8. ON NEPAL-US RELATIONS BOTH AGREED THAT THERE NO BILATERAL DIFFICULTIES. SISCO EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT WARM RECEPTION WHICH AMBASSADOR CARGO RECEIVED IN KATHMANDU. WITH REGARD TO AID MATTERS, KHANAL ASKED THAT WE KEEP IN MIND NEPAL'S SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AS WE SHIFT TO NEW AID PRIORITIES. NEPALESE HOPED THESE WOULD NOT RULE OUT ROAD PROJECT. SISCO PROMISED TO LOOK INTO DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS REGARD HE HOPED WE WOULD MOVE

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AHEAD WITH SURKHET ROAD PROJECT. SISCO PROMISED TO LOOK INTO QUESTION. KISSINGER

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